

**SRWT Moss Valley Woodlands**  
**Reserve Advisory Group meeting**  
**13.04.17**  
**Coal Aston Village Hall: 10.00am to 1.00pm**

**Present & Apologies - Welcome & Introduction**

Apologies:

Chris and Ann Turk

Attendees:

Nabil Abbas (SRWT)

Hannah Wittram (SRWT)

Jonathon Webster (MVWG)

Mary Gray

**1. Summary of completed winter work 16/17**

- Removal of holly encroachment into open areas, to encourage ground flora and sapling regeneration
- Ongoing work to cut back vegetation and maintain the Public Rights of Way.
- Scrub and tree cover encroaching on to Dowey Lumb were reduced to preserve the ancient woodland pasture. Overhanging branches from the mature trees along the boundaries were cut back.
  - JW – asked whether more bramble could be cut back from the grassland edge and could the Goat Willow be coppiced at the top of the grassland? And also asked what do we do with the wood?
  - NA agreed about cutting back the encroaching the bramble and scrub.
  - Some of the brash is burnt and the rest is discretely piled in the woodland.
  - In some cases where we have funding a chipper can be hired and the medium size wood removed if it is accessible. If it's large it is left on site.
- Hedgerow maintenance – The new hedge plants at Coal Pit Wood were weeded and mulched and the missing canes and rabbit guards were replaced.

**2. Upcoming works**

- Monthly patrols, checking PROW's, litter picking, boundaries etc
  - The PROW marker post at the Long Wood Bridge needs replacing (concessionary bridleway)
- Dowey Lumb bracken control & hay cutting – The grassland will be cut in September working with Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service.
- Installation of a kissing gate at the Jordanthorpe Parkway entrance to reduce motorbike access – now completed

- We are hoping to install Bridleway marker posts that will match and link up with the Woodland Trust marker posts – subject to funding

### 3. Events

Both the Wildflower and Tree workshops went very well and were well attended.

The last workshop this year will be:

#### **Fungi Workshop**

28<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 9.30am – 4pm

Join our expert Dr Patrick Harding and explore the fascinating world of fungi. Indoor session at Coal Aston Village Hall, followed by site visit. Bookable event via [www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on](http://www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on) £10 members, £15 non members

ONLINE BOOKING ESSENTIAL

### 4. Monthly Volunteer Work Days, first Thursday of every month 10am – 3pm

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Path maintenance and bracken control

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Dowey Lumb meadow cut

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Dowey Lumb scrub removal (with HSBC corporate group)

### 5. Funding

We have been successful in the recent funding bid to Veolia Environmental Trust, which is excellent news! Thank you to everyone who submitted support letters and emails. The list below includes all the work scheduled

<b>Work to be funded through Veolia "Saving the Bluebells" project (Apr 17-Sept 18)</b>
Extended Phase 1 vegetation survey of reserve
Supply & install kissing gate at Coal Pit Wood entrance
Removal of bracken in Dowey Lumb - 2 days
Annual grass cut & raking in Dowey Lumb - 1 day
Removal of scrub and small trees in Dowey Lumb wood pasture - 5 days
Halo thinning around mature "future veteran" trees - 4 days
Create standing deadwood "monoliths" in Long Wood & Coal Pit Wood - 4 days
Removal of young holly in Bridle Road and Newfield Spring Woods - 8 days
Hire specialist flail & operator to remove dense holly in Long Wood
Community Wildlife Ranger time - lead monthly volunteer days (18 days)
Tools, equipment, PPE & training

The flail work will be scheduled for September, after bird breeding season but before the winter when the paths often become too wet.

Some of the funding will include creating standing deadwood which will benefit invertebrates, fungi and bird species such as Great Spotted Woodpeckers.

- JW agreed and mentioned they would also benefit Tree Creepers and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. If anyone spots a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (Sparrow-sized, mainly black and white and scruffier looking than Great Spotted), please let the Moss Valley Wildlife Group know as they are in decline.

**Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 7-8pm, Coal Aston Village Hall